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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA



October 2018 Volume 96, No. 2

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On the cover:

The Archangel Michael (1753) Statue by Peter Anton von Verschaffelt (1710–1793) Castel Sant'Angelo; Rome, Italy Tarker / Bridgeman Images

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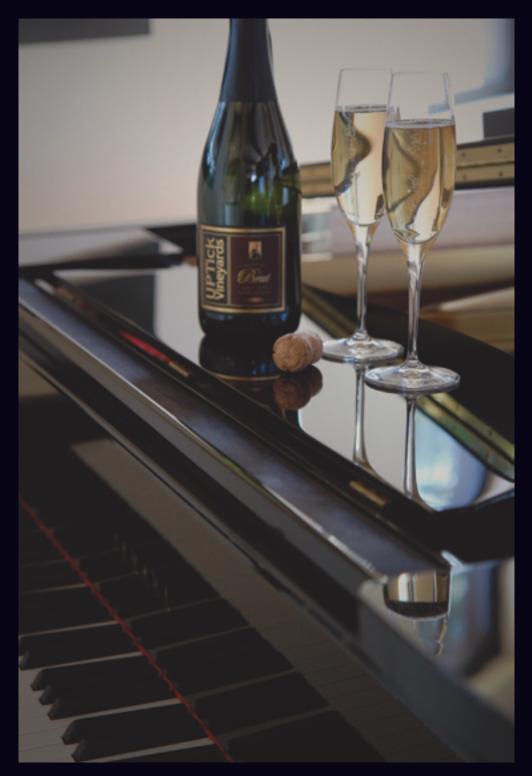
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A MESSAGE FROM

THE BOARD OF SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Welcome to San Francisco Opera's 96th season! After an extraordinarily successful run of Wagner's *Ring* cycle this summer, we are delighted that you have joined us at the War Memorial Opera House for another unforgettable year of opera. This fall, San Francisco Opera presents five emotionally thrilling productions, all of which are new to our stage. They include the perennial favorite double bill of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and



Pagliacci, the beautiful and rarely performed *Roberto Devereux* starring Sondra Radvanovsky and Russell Thomas, a sumptuously romantic *Arabella*, and a magnificent new production of *Tosca*, an opera closely identified with San Francisco Opera since our founding in 1923, with Carmen Giannattasio making her Company debut in the title role. We are also thrilled to be presenting the West Coast premiere of *It's a Wonderful Life* by beloved Bay Area composer Jake Heggie.

This season is made possible by our talented guest artists, orchestra, chorus, dance corps, staff, and crew who create the uniquely compelling art form that is opera. It is also made possible by you, our community of patrons and donors, whose loyal support keeps San Francisco Opera at the forefront of opera companies worldwide. We extend special thanks to our Company sponsors for their extraordinary annual support. They include the Dolby family, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Ann and Gordon Getty, Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, the Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard and Barbro Osher, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne and Tad Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey, and Barbara A. Wolfe. We also wish to recognize our generous Season Sponsor, Wells Fargo, and our Corporate Partners, Chevron and United Airlines.

Thank you for joining us, and for helping us make it possible to share opera's transformative power with tens of thousands of music lovers this season!

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Remembering Barbara Jackson

The Sunday, October 7 matinee performance of *Tosca* is dedicated to the memory of Barbara K. Jackson, a longtime supporter of San Francisco Opera and the Merola Opera Program. She passed away peacefully in her home on Friday, September 7, just one month shy of her 100th birthday.

Opera was Barbara's greatest passion, and over the course of more than 15 years she sponsored dozens of San Francisco Opera



Adler Fellows and Merola participants—nearly all of them tenors, which was by far her favorite operatic voice. She also sponsored the annual Adler finale concert, *The Future Is Now*, for ten consecutive years and was the 2009 recipient of San Francisco Opera's Spirit of the Opera award. Asked what motivated her giving, Barbara reflected, "San Francisco Opera has been an integral part of my life for more than 40 years and it remains one of the most enjoyable activities on my schedule. Watching young singers develop and grow has added immeasurably to my experience. It has even been my great pleasure to travel to see Adlers perform on stages across the country and in Europe. I am proud to play a part in encouraging such extraordinary talent."

One such talent that Jackson helped nurture was tenor Brian Jagde, a star of the Company's new production of *Tosca*. "The moment I met Barbara we were instantly family. She was my Grandma, and her love and support changed my life," he says. "Knowing she was sitting in the front row gave every performance more meaning. She was one of the most extraordinary people I've ever known, and she helped to make San Francisco feel like home for me. That's why everything I will sing this season is dedicated to her memory."

General Director Matthew Shilvock adds, "Barbara was tirelessly devoted to ensuring a vital future for opera, championing young singers, and celebrating the art and artistry of our stage. She had a fundamental belief in the beauty and power of the human voice and was a beloved partner in bringing glorious opera to life."

All of us at San Francisco Opera join in celebrating the life of an extraordinary patron of the arts.

Did You Know?

Puccini's *Tosca* is based on the 1887 fiveact play *La Tosca* by Victorien Sardou, a popular Parisian playwright. It became a showcase vehicle for one of history's most famous actresses, Sarah Bernhardt, and it was first seen by the 30-year-old Puccini in Milan with Bernhardt in the title role.

Among the superstitious, *Tosca* has a reputation for being a bit cursed. Both Maria Callas and Galina Vishnevskaya had their wigs catch on fire in separate productions involving Act II's candles. At the Metropolitan Opera in 1986, in the Act II scuffle involving Scarpia and Tosca, Juan Pons accidentally dislocated Eva Marton's jaw. And Elizabeth Knighton Printy broke both legs in Tosca's climactic jump in 1993 for Minnesota Opera.

Tosca isn't the only major opera with a diva as its lead character. There is also Emilia Marty in Janáček's *The Makropulos Case* who has 300 years to perfect her vocal technique, the title character of Berg's *Lulu* who realizes her dream of becoming a soubrette, the dueling pair of Prima Donna and Zerbinetta in Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, the title role of Jake Heggie's 2015 opera *Great Scott*, and Roxane Coss in Jimmy López's *Bel Canto* (2015).

Richard Strauss completed *Arabella* arguably, his most romantic opera in 1933, the year that Franklin Delano Roosevelt became the 32nd President of the United States, Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany, the Reichstag fire took place in Berlin, and construction of the Golden Gate Bridge began. It marks his sixth and final collaboration with librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal.



FALL 2018 EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Enrich your opera experience this season with one of several interactive community programs offered by the Company's Education Department.

Back by popular demand, **Drinks & Drama:** A *Taste of the Season* is an opportunity for opera lovers, new and experienced, to learn something fresh about this season's offerings while enjoying a customized cocktail flight, prepared by expert mixologists. The event on Thursday, October 18 at 7 p.m. includes live performances of musical excerpts from the fall 2018 season. For adults ages 21 and up, tickets are \$45 per person.

Looking for an opportunity to introduce young children to opera? Join us on Saturday, November 10 at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. for **First Act:** *The Cunning Little Vixen's Adventure*. The hour-long program is a chance to sing and dance through the charming folk world of woodland creatures created by Czech composer Leoš Janáček. Admission is \$10 per person.

Both events take place at the Wilsey Center for Opera's John M. Bryan Education Studio. Learn more about San Francisco Opera's programs for families, adults, and the community by visiting **sfopera.com/community**.

SAN FRANCISCO **OPERA** Profile **Dale Travis**, *Bass-baritone*

2018 marks the 30th anniversary of Dale Travis' debut season at San Francisco Opera. It was a busy one for the New Jersey-born singer, beginning as the Keeper of the Madhouse in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and followed by appearances as the Police Inspector in Shostakovich's *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, a Prison Sergeant in Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, Lord Krishna in Philip Glass' *Satyagraha*, and the dual role of Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Bohème*. His repertory grew rapidly from there.

"Basses really have to be versatile because there are tons of bass roles and you're not always going to be singing Don Giovanni or Figaro. We are also the father, the policeman, the jailer... I always tell young basses not to worry about beginning with smaller roles. That's how you start. Why not have people say, 'Wow! That was the best jailer I ever 'heard.' My wife kids me about this. She says that if someone asks me what *The Rake's Progress* is about, I might say, 'Well, you see there's this jailer...'"

Known for a vast array of comprimario or supporting parts along with many leading roles, Travis is one of the opera's great stage chameleons. With San Francisco Opera, the Merola alumnus and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow has appeared in 28 operas, portraying 33 roles, in 244 performances. And counting! He returns this season as a Sacristan in Puccini's *Tosca*.

At the Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati, Travis studied voice with Andrew White (teacher of operatic luminaries including baritone Sherrill Milnes) and opera with legendary Italian bass Italo Tajo. Tajo made an impact on Travis that continues to resonate today. "I learned as much as I could from that man and was really shaped by him."

Absorbing what he calls the "old-school Italian tradition" from Tajo, that philosophy as a performer was further cemented when he worked with Paolo Montarsolo as a Merola participant singing Don



Pasquale and with Renato Capecchi whom he covered and was coached by as an Adler Fellow. The other person who was a huge help was Elena Servi-Burgess who was every bit as tough as the Company's Italian diction coach. "They all were very demanding on diction, the dramatic intent of the words, punctuation, and deciphering what the composers' thoughts were by the markings in the score," Travis says. "To entertain, you must communicate. The audience can then see in your gestures and hear in your voice exactly what your emotions are at any given moment in the drama."

Along with his gallery of memorable stage portrayals, Travis has amassed enough stories during his career to fill a multi-volume memoir. One that immediately came to mind for him was singing the Major Domo in Strauss' *Capriccio* in 1990. "That cast and Kiri Te Kanawa! After she sings that gorgeous final scene, I come in with 'Frau Gräfin, das Souper ist serviert.' That was one of the hardest entrances I ever had to make." The pro-

duction's costumes, designed by Gianni Versace, also hold a special significance. "The costumes for the guys were just flawless. I've never worn another suit like that again."

Today, Doctor Bartolo in Rossini's *II Barbiere di Siviglia* is one of Travis' most frequently performed roles and one of his best. "I have a blast as Bartolo, but I don't play it for laughs. Like Tajo used to say, we show the reality of the scene and that is what is funny."

When Travis reprises the Sacristan this season, his thoughts will be on one of the 20th century's greatest portrayers of the role. "When I sing this role, I think of Maestro Tajo and all that he taught me. I consider it a great honor to uphold the standards of excellence he established, and I am excited to do it for him again in the opera house I've considered my home for the past 30 years."

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San Francisco Opera's 96th season began on September 7, 2018 with a bold interpretation of the famous double bill of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* that set the Italian classics in the tango-infused La Boca district of Buenos Aires. To reflect the occasion, this year's Opera Ball, co-chaired by Shannon Cronan and Kathy Huber, was a sensational evening of Argentine festivity, designed by J. Riccardo Benavides. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefit the San Francisco Opera Association and Opera Guild's education programs reaching more than 60,000 young people. Special thanks to Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey, dinner sponsor Neiman Marcus, jewelry sponsor Shreve & Co., Chalk Hill Estate Vineyards and Winery, and Roederer Estate sparkling wines.



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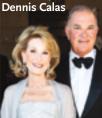


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San Francisco Opera's BRAVO! Club, a dedicated and dynamic group of young professionals throughout the Bay Area, hosted their own sold-out opening night gala. BRAVO! President Shannon Eliot and gala co-chairs Xanadu Bruggers and Anjali Menon organized a festive evening that included a pre-performance reception on the outdoor loggia of the Opera House and an after-party in the Green Room of the Veterans Building. The BRAVO! gala was designed by **Kate Siegel Fine Events** with catering provided by **Paula LeDuc** and a bourbon and rye tasting by **Wright & Brown Distilling Co.**

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Opera in the Park 2018

Nearly 15,000 people flocked to Golden Gate Park for the 45th annual San Francisco Chronicle Presents Opera in the Park concert on a beautiful, 71-degree day with blue skies. Conductors Daniele Callegari, Riccardo Frizza, and Leo Hussain took turns on the podium leading a program of works ranging from Handel to Richard Strauss. Among the singers of the fall season performing at Opera in the Park were sopranos Carmen Giannattasio and Lianna Haroutounian, mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Semenchuk, tenors Marco Berti and Brian Jagde, and baritone Dimitri Platanias. The concert was dedicated to the memory of David Wiegand, former San Francisco Chronicle Assistant Managing Editor.



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BEFORE YOU GO

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OPERA HOUSE TOURS

Discover the magic that goes into creating an opera production with a backstage tour of the War Memorial Opera House led by a Guild volunteer docent. Tours occur only on selected dates in small groups; reservations required. E-mail **tour.reserve@gmail.com** or call the San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 551-6353 to leave a message. For group tours contact Lynn Watson at **sf.opera.tours@gmail.com**. \$20 for general admission.

OPERA TALKS

Before every performance, charismatic scholars present a 25-minute overview of the opera with insights on the music, composer, and historical background. Talks begin 55 minutes prior to curtain. Visit **sfopera.com/operatalks**.

Tosca: Alexandra Amati

Arabella: Corey Jamason (October 16, 24; November 3) Kirsten Paige (October 19) Heidi Waleson (October 28)

It's a Wonderful Life: Clifford Cranna interviewing Jake Heggie and/or Gene Scheer

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John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn



nce again, the unprecedented generosity of Cynthia and John Gunn has set the stage for a dazzling season at San Francisco Opera. Since 2002, when John joined the Opera Board, the couple has underwritten numerous productions and provided exceptional support for many of the company's innovative endeavors.

In September 2008, the Gunns made a historic commitment —believed to be the largest gift ever made by individuals to an American opera company—to help fund the signature projects of General Director David Gockley, including new operas and productions, multimedia projects, and outreach programs, and have proudly continued that support for General Director Matthew Shilvock. This season, the Gunns' inspired generosity is helping make possible four productions—*Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci*, the company's new production of *Tosca*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *Rusalka*.

The Gunns hope that their support inspires others to give. John comments, "Opera is a dynamic art form and all of us play a role in keeping it vital. We must expand our repertoire and our audiences and strive for financial flexibility. And we depend on donors to keep opera alive."

John is the former chairman and CEO of Dodge & Cox Investment Managers. He joined the firm in 1972, the year he received his MBA from Stanford Business School and married Cynthia, who graduated from Stanford with an A.B. in political science in 1970. Early in her career, Cynthia was the editor and director of The Portable Stanford book series for ten years. She edited twenty-eight books by Stanford professors on a vast array of topics, including Economic Policy Beyond the Headlines by George Shultz and Ken Dam. In addition to their support of San Francisco Opera, the Gunns are active members of the community. John chairs the advisory board for the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, is Vice Chairman of the Board of Stanford Hospital Care and is a former trustee of Stanford University. Cynthia currently serves as an overseer of Stanford's Hoover Institution and a trustee of the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums and has been a member of the advisory board of Family and Children Services and the board of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health.

Opera lovers are grateful to Cynthia and John and applaud their commitment to keeping San Francisco Opera a leading-edge company.

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Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem

s Jan Shrem explains, "For Maria, it is all about the artists. Though I had loved opera for years before I met her, it was Maria who opened my eyes to the dedication and sacrifice of the artists." Jan and Maria have provided significant support for opera artists through the establishment of four major funds. Through the *Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund*, they support many classic works of the Italian repertoire, including this season's *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci* and *Tosca*. Through the *Conductors Fund*, appearances of renowned Italian conductors are assured at San Francisco Opera, this season for *Cavallaria Rusticana/Pagliacci*, *Roberto Devereux*, and *Carmen*. Through the *Emerging Stars Fund*, Jan and Maria help bring some of opera's most exciting rising talents to the stage, with appearances this season in *Arabella*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *Orlando*, and *Rusalka*. And finally, through the *Luminaries Concert Fund*, legendary artists will return to San Francisco for special events and performances, beginning with *Plácido Domingo in Concert* this year.

Maria, born in Florence, Italy, says, "Opera has been one of my greatest passions since I was 13 years old." When she saw *Madama Butterfly* at San Francisco Opera in 1974 starring Renata Scotto, the two had an emotional backstage meeting. "She was so far from home and so grateful to be able to speak Italian with me—we both cried. I began to understand the challenging life of opera artists. Since then, I have been motivated to do what I can to welcome artists when they are working in San Francisco." Jan concurs, "They dedicate their lives for our pleasure, and their artistry elevates our lives."

The *Emerging Stars* of San Francisco Opera's 2018–19 season include virtuoso singers Daniel Johansson (*Arabella*), Andriana Chuchman and Golda Schultz (*It's a Wonderful Life*), Sasha Cooke, Christina Gansch and Christian Van Horn (*Orlando*), and Rachel Willis-Sørensen (*Rusalka*). What does it take to be an *Emerging Star*? In the Shrems' view: "a beautiful voice, a good ear, strong acting skills, and the ability to perform from the heart." Atalla Ayan, who appeared as Alfredo in Verdi's *La Traviata* last season, was named "2018 Emerging Star of the Year" based on a popular vote.

General Director Matthew Shilvock observes, "Maria and Jan have an incredible sensitivity to the needs of artists and a passion for seeing young artists succeed and grow into the next generation of stars. It is a pleasure to partner with them on the *Emerging Stars* program and to celebrate the finest voices making an impact on the world. San Francisco Opera has always been one of the great nurturers of new voices, and this program helps us take that even further."

Maria declares, "It is immensely satisfying to support San Francisco Opera in this way. We can appreciate the benefits of our philanthropy here and now as we enjoy these young, exciting artists and become their friends." Maria feels that artists want friends in the audience, and she and Jan are pleased to know that their presence gives artists greater confidence. "We hope others will join us in contributing to these funds and these friendships."

Jan says, "Opera is what brought us together, and it will always be central in our lives. It is a joy to share in Maria's overwhelming enthusiasm, and it is important to ensure that San Francisco Opera has the support and stability it deserves to continue its transformative work."





Top: Maria Manetti Shrem and Jan Shrem

Bottom: Maria Manetti Shrem with Michael Fabiano and Nadine Sierra

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson (Company Sponsor and Production Sponsor, *Tosca*)

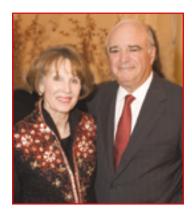
Libby and Burgess Jamieson have made an extraordinary commitment to the San Francisco Opera for over three decades by supporting traditional, classical productions. Their ongoing generosity has assured an enduring place on the War Memorial Opera House stage for such applauded and memorable works as: *Die Meistersinger, II Trittico, La Bohème, Madama Butterfly, Turandot, Tosca* and *La Traviata.* Both Libby and Burgess consider their sustained support of the arts, especially the San Francisco Opera, as a means of preserving important cultural links

for future generations. "Libby and I are pleased to play a role in bringing to the stage General Director Matthew Shilvock's vision of creating a stunning new legacy production for *Tosca*, one of our favorite operas, that will appeal to both seasoned and new audiences," Burgess says. "We are honored to be part of such an important work in the company's storied history." With over 45 years of experience in private and public investment management, Burgess is active on the San Francisco Opera's Board of Directors and its investment committee.

Koret Foundation (Production Sponsor, Tosca)

San Francisco Opera is deeply grateful for the Koret Foundation's support of *Tosca*. This support is part of the foundation's multi-year Arts and Culture Initiative, which funds bold ideas that help build the next generation of artists and art enthusiasts. Koret's three-year grant will support the revival and restaging of classical operas, which also includes—in future seasons—*The Marriage of Figaro* and *Cosi fan Tutte*. "The Opera and the Koret Foundation have a valued partnership that goes back many years," says General Director Matthew Shilvock, "and we look forward to continuing to celebrate the critical role that the Foundation plays in enabling thrilling artistic endeavors." "We are excited to partner with San Francisco Opera as they continue to produce world-class productions that enrich and inspire our entire community," says Jeffrey A. Farber, Koret CEO.





Joan and David Traitel/Great Singers Fund (Sponsor, Carmen Giannattsio)

"Without great singers, opera is not all it could be," says San Francisco Opera board member Joan Traitel. "That's why my husband and I approached David Gockley with the idea of creating a special way of supporting singers exclusively." The result was the Great Singers Fund, launched by the Traitels in 2008 to provide San Francisco Opera with enhanced support to attract the world's best singers. Joan, a member of the Opera's board of directors since 1998, and her husband David were production sponsors for several years before founding the Great Singers Fund. "The Fund makes a difference in the quality of opera in San Francisco," Joan explains. "We are thrilled to sponsor Carmen Giannattasio as she makes her Company and role debut as Tosca in this exciting, new San Francisco Opera production. I hope people see the

relationship between the Great Singers Fund and this season's fantastic lineup. Your support truly can make a difference! These amazing artists make an evening special, and at the end you walk away happy."

SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT

Bernard and Barbro Osher (Production Sponsor, Arabella)

A native of Maine, Bernard Osher became involved with San Francisco Opera as a subscriber nearly 50 years ago, shortly after moving here from New York. He and his wife Barbro, a native of Sweden, have supported every aspect of the Company's work, from artist appearances to production facilities. Established in 1977, the Bernard Osher Foundation has funded virtually every major arts organization in the area, including youth programs. Higher education initiatives include community college support, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes on 119 campuses nationwide, and Osher Centers for Integrative Medicine at several of the nation's leading teaching hospitals, and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Bernard is a longstanding member of the Opera's Board of Directors, serving on the Chairman's Council. Barbro is Honorary Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco and serves as Chairman of the Board of the Osher Foundation.



INTRODUCING THE BUILDERS CIRCLE

Beautiful, engaging repertory productions like this season's *Tosca* are a central part of what makes us one of the finest opera companies in the world. For this reason, we are excited to introduce the Builders Circle, a new giving program designed to foster ongoing investment in the creation of new repertory productions. Tailor-made for our most dedicated supporters, this program promises special opportunities—on top of your regular membership benefits—that will allow you to engage with the work made possible by your support. Beginning in the 2018–19 Season, renewing members who make an increased gift of 10% or more over the prior year (with a minimum increase of \$500) and first-time members who join with a gift of \$500 or more will qualify for these additional benefits. Visit **sfopera.com/builderscircle** to learn more.

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Giacomo Puccini TOSCA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA



This production is made possible, in part, by: Barbara A. Wolfe; John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson; the Koret Foundation; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund; the Thomas Tilton Production Fund; and Chevron.

Ms. Giannattasio's appearance is made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

Additional funding is provided by: Romana D. Bracco; Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; Carol and Dixon Doll; Karin Eames; Lisa Erdberg and Dennis Gibbons; the Al Garren Fund; Laurie Kottmeyer and Bianca Duarte; The E. Nakamichi Foundation; Sally and Craig Nordlund; and Betty and Jack Schafer.

SYNOPSIS

TOSCA

ACT I

Cesare Angelotti, a political prisoner and former leader of the Napoleon resistance, has just escaped from the prison at Castel Sant'Angelo and is seeking refuge in a nearby church. As Angelotti hides in his family's chapel, a sacristan enters followed by the painter Mario Cavaradossi, who begins to work on a portrait of Mary Magdalene. Angelotti comes out of hiding and asks for his friend Cavaradossi's assistance but hides again as the voice of the painter's lover, the famous opera singer Floria Tosca, is heard. She enters demanding to know why the door to the church was locked and suspects Cavaradossi of being with another woman. He reassures her of his fidelity, and the lovers agree to meet later that evening.

A cannon shot is heard announcing Angelotti's escape, and the friends flee. The sacristan gathers the choir boys, telling them they must rehearse for a special performance for which Tosca will be the soloist celebrating Napoleon's defeat. At that moment, the Roman chief of police, Baron Scarpia, arrives searching for Angelotti. Scarpia, suspecting Cavaradossi's complicity in Angelotti's escape, convinces Tosca that Cavaradossi has run off with another woman. Scarpia knows that Tosca's jealousy will lead him to Cavaradossi, and thus to Angelotti. As the Te Deum hymn builds in intensity, he vows to ensnare them all.

ACT II

Having detained the Marchesa Attavanti for aiding her brother's escape, Scarpia receives word of Cavaradossi's arrest. He summons Tosca from her concert in the courtyard below, and she is shocked to see the captured Cavaradossi. Scarpia tries to extract Angelotti's hiding place from Tosca, but she pleads ignorance. Yet as Scarpia raises the stakes, torturing Cavaradossi, she capitulates, revealing the secret and asking Scarpia for Cavaradossi's freedom in return. Delirious from torture, Cavaradossi hears Scarpia order his men to Angelotti's hiding place, curses Tosca, and cries defiance as news emerges that Napoleon was actually victorious.

Tosca pleads for her lover's life, and Scarpia offers her an exchange: if she will submit to his lust, he will save Cavaradossi's life. In despair, she pleads for mercy but realizes she must agree to the bargain. Scarpia tells Tosca there will be a mock execution, but circuitously orders his henchman to make preparations for a real one. At Tosca's request, he then writes a safe-conduct pass for her and Cavaradossi. Tosca, having discovered a dagger among the tributes and bribes that Scarpia has received, stabs him, takes the safe-conduct pass and goes to find Cavaradossi.

ACT III

Waiting for his execution, Cavaradossi bribes the jailer so that he can write a farewell letter to Tosca, recalling the intensity of their love and mourning that he will never see her again. Tosca runs in, explaining that she has murdered Scarpia but they will escape—the execution will be faked and with their safe-conduct pass they can flee together. The lovers ecstatically plan for the future but are interrupted by the arrival of the firing squad. After the shots, Tosca bids Cavaradossi to wait until the soldiers are gone and then asks him to escape with her. She is horrified to discover that the execution was real after all, and distant shouts announce Scarpia's murder. As the soldiers rush in to seize Tosca, she curses Scarpia's betrayal, climbs to the fortress parapet, and leaps to her death.

First performance: Rome, Teatro Costanzi; January 14, 1900.

First performance in the U.S.: New York, Metropolitan Opera; February 4, 1901.

First San Francisco Opera performance: October 2, 1923.

Tosca has been performed in 38 previous San Francisco Opera seasons. For complete casting and other information, visit **archive.sfopera.com**.

Personnel: 8 principals, 48 choristers, 16 child choristers, 39 supernumeraries; **111 total**.

Orchestra: 3 flutes (2 doubling piccolos), 2 oboes, 1 English horn, 2 clarinets, 1 bass clarinet, 2 bassoons, 1 contrabassoon, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 cimbasso, 1 timpani, 2 percussion, 1 harp, 1 celeste, 40 strings (12 first violins, 9 second violins, 7 violas, 7 cellos, 5 basses); **68 total**.

Backstage: 1 flute, 1 viola, 1 harp, organ, and chimes.

The children singing in this production (listed after the artist profiles) are members of the San Francisco Boys Chorus, led by Artistic Director Ian Robertson. Conductor Leo Hussain*

Director Shawna Lucey

Production Designer Robert Innes Hopkins

Lighting Designer Michael James Clark

Chorus Director Ian Robertson

Fight Director Dave Maier

Assistant Conductor Teddy Poll*

Musical Preparation John Churchwell Matthew Piatt César Cañón ¹ Fabrizio Corona

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San Francisco Opera production

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2018 AT 7:30 PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 2 PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11 AT 7:30 PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 AT 2 PM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17 AT 7:30 PM SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 AT 7:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23 AT 7:30 PM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 AT 7:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30 AT 7:30 PM Opera in three acts by **Giacomo Puccini** Libretto by **Luigi Illica** and **Giuseppe Giacosa** Based on the drama *La Tosca* by **Victorien Sardou**

TOSCA

(Sung in Italian with English supertitles)

CAST (in order of appearance)

Cesare Angelotti	Hadleigh Adams
A sacristan	Dale Travis
Mario Cavaradossi	Brian Jagde
Floria Tosca	Carmen Giannattasio*
Baron Scarpia	Scott Hendricks
Spoletta	Joel Sorensen
Marchesa Attavanti	Tatiana Bookbinder
Sciarrone	Andrew Manea
A shepherd boy	Zachary Zele * (10/3, 14, 17, 26, 30)
	Miles Kaludzinski* (10/7, 11, 20, 23)
A jailer	Christian Pursell [†]

Soldiers, police agents, priests, citizens

* San Francisco Opera debut [†] Current Adler Fellow

PLACE AND TIME: Rome, June 1800

ACT I A church

-INTERMISSION-

ACT II A room in Scarpia's apartments in the Palazzo Farnese

-INTERMISSION-

ACT III On top of the Castel Sant'Angelo

The performance will last approximately two hours and forty-five minutes. Latecomers may not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed. Patrons who leave during the performance may not be re-seated until intermission.

The use of cameras, cell phones, and any kind of recording equipment is strictly forbidden. Please turn off and refrain from using all electronic devices. ell, *Tosca* isn't for everyone," says the sinister Mr. White in the 2008 007 film *Quantum of Solace* as his criminal associates leave a performance of Puccini's opera. They're actually fleeing, these villains, because they realize James Bond is on to them. But it would be true to say that *Tosca* is not everyone's favorite. UC Berkeley professor Joseph Kerman, author of the classic 1956 text *Opera as Drama*, famously called *Tosca* a "shabby little shocker," while Gustav Mahler, seeing a performance in 1903, considered it a poor excuse for a masterpiece (*Meistermachwerk*). "Nowadays every shoemaker's apprentice is a master orchestrator," he wrote.

Triamphant

Filmed at the Bregenz Festival, the scene in *Quantum of Solace* incorporates *Tosca*'s Act I finale (one of opera's most brilliant coups de théâtre) but then—to the anguished "murder" music from *Tosca*'s Act II—there is a shootout sequence. Considering how well the music integrates this filmic violence, a person might sympathize with any critic's attempt to frame ethical questions over this opera, with its suicides, assassination, and execution.

But none of this criticism has affected *Tosca*'s popularity. San Francisco Opera has mounted *Tosca* 38 times since its founding in 1923. It was the opera that opened the War Memorial Opera House in 1932 and the first work performed in the renovated War Memorial in 1997. Further, many of the great opera legends of the past century have sung the principal roles here: no less than Claudia Muzio, Lotte Lehmann, Renata Tebaldi, Dorothy Kirsten, Leontyne Price, and Montserrat Caballé as Tosca, just to name a few sopranos; Cavaradossi has been performed by the likes of Mario Del Monaco, Jussi Björling, Franco Corelli, Plácido Domingo, and Luciano Pavarotti.

In many ways, Puccini's tale of a woman who offers herself to a cruel police chief, thinking, wrongly, she is saving her lover's life, is the perfectly crafted opera. First, it is based on dramaturgically sound material. In *The Cambridge Opera Handbook to Tosca*, author Mosco Carner says that Victorien Sardou's play *La Tosca* exhibits a "plot of the utmost ingenuity. Sardou's dramaturgy is impeccable: everything is foreseen and nothing forgotten." Puccini saw *La Tosca* at least twice, in Milan and Florence, in the early 1890s. He could test the play's theatricality, especially the powerful performance of Sarah Bernhardt for whom the play had been written.

Sardou's *Tosca* may be old-fashioned in its abundant characters, wordiness, and leisurely exposition (it is in five acts). But Puccini's librettists—the scenarist Luigi Illica and versifier Giuseppe Giacosa—did a magnificent job at ratchetting up the tension and then making room for lyrical expansion (e.g., love duets), adding something of what was missing in Sardou's original: space to enter

Adrianne Pieczonka and Lado Ataneli in the Company's 2009 production of Tosca.

Opposite: The 2008 James Bond film Quantum of Solace famously depicted Tosca from the Bregenz Festival's Floating Stage.

Tosca is arguably the opera buff's opera par excellence

the characters' emotional worlds. One of their radical changes involved shifting the central act of Sardou's Act II-Tosca's performance of a cantata—into a poignant offstage counterpoint to Baron Scarpia's interrogation of his political suspect, Tosca's lover Cavaradossi (Sardou's Act III).

The opera begins later and more urgently than Sardou's play with prison escapee Angelotti arriving at the church where Cavaradossi is painting a Mary Magdalene. English musicologist Ernest Newman thought Puccini's librettists ignored important explanations and character motivations. But Illica simply has Cavaradossi exclaim, "The consul of the former Roman republic!" and a modern audience, accustomed to the efficiency of a screenplay, can deduce that Angelotti has fallen foul of his political enemies.

One of the advantages of this sort of filleting is that Puccini gets quickly to the first of the opera's big numbers. And for an audience (which decides the impact and durability of an opera as much as critics) these "hits" are undeniably a part of Tosca's attractions.

Cavaradossi's "Recondita armonia," in which he compares his beloved Tosca's black eyes to the blue eyes of the Magdalene, can stand alone in a concert. but there you don't get to hear the Sacristan's pious asides, a perfect example of how Puccini uses music to delineate contrasting characters. "Mawkish" is the word used by Kerman to describe the "tone poem" at the beginning of Tosca's third act, but the aria that arises out of it, Cavaradossi's "E lucevan le stelle," can be felt as honestly bereft as, condemned to die, he pens a farewell to Tosca. Originally Illica wrote here a paean to art and poetry, which

greatly impressed Verdi when he heard a reading of the libretto in 1894. But, astutely, Puccini thought Cavaradossi's reminiscence of a happier time would strike a more suitable tone. The tragic tinge created by a solo clarinet is just one example of Puccini's many felicitous orchestral decisions. Granted any "shoemaker's apprentice" can manage orchestration, orchestral color is an important way for audiences to receive and enjoy information.

The opera's other big number is "Vissi d'arte" in the middle of Act II where Tosca matches wits with Scarpia who promises a fake execution for Cavaradossi if she surrenders to him. "Never did I

harm a living creature," sings Tosca, wondering how she deserved this predicament. Puccini came to think "Vissi d'arte" held up the drama's flow. Maybe it does, but Carner described it as "a splendid piece, demanding of the singer a perfect legato and radiant, liquescent tone." Moreover, it softens a character whose initial jealousy (over the woman with the blue eyes) risks making Tosca less sympathetic than female leads in other Puccini operas.

And then there are the overwhelmingly impressive theatrical segments. Even behind a James Bond film, the Act I finale is diverting. Does theater offer a greater statement of religious hypocrisy? During a Te Deum, Scarpia gives vent to his twin lusts: to see Cavaradossi executed and Tosca in his paws. And though some might accuse Puccini of shallowness, he researched this scene deeply, tracking down liturgical details. He even selected a text

that would give the chorus a murmuring effect under Scarpia's exultation.

Act II, comprising battles of wit between the protagonists, has an admirable symmetrical structure. At first, Scarpia tries to get Cavaradossi to reveal Angelotti's whereabouts while Tosca sings her cantata outside in a courtyard. Then Scarpia tries to convince Tosca to give herself to him while the sounds of Cavaradossi's torture emerge from elsewhere in the palace. The act ends with Tosca stabbing Scarpia to death once she has bargained from him a safe conduct for her and Cavaradossi. Her adornment of Scarpia's dead body with candlesticks and a crucifix was apparently something Bernhardt cleverly invented to remind viewers of Tosca's basic religious beliefs.

Kerman made substantial criticisms, however. In his 1986 revision of Opera as Drama, he regretted

once discussing Tosca as a "chain-saw movie," but stuck by a charge of musical emptiness: the music doesn't have the strength to generate real drama, he thought.

Strong criticism was levelled at the Act III beginning where Puccini's tone poem of an early morning in Rome replaces the detailed and dry stage description prefacing Sardou's last scene. Puccini made a special trip to Rome to test the realistic effect of morning church bells from the Castel Sant'Angelo where in the opera Cavaradossi is kept under guard, and he asked the poet 🛓







Far left: In San Francisco Opera's 1934 Tosca, the roles of Cavaradossi and Tosca were sung by Dino Borgioli and Lotte Lehmann; left: Dorothy Kirsten performed the title role a record 28 times with the Company, including here in 1960 with Tito Gobbi; middle, left: Plácido Domingo and Eva Marton from 1960; middle, right: From 1963, Leontyne Price as Tosca. Bottom: Harvey Milk saw San Francisco Opera's production of Tosca just days before his assassination on November 27, 1978. Sean Penn starred as the San Francisco Supervisor in the 2008 film Milk.

Luigi Antonio Zanazzo for some verses that would sound like a shepherd's song of the Roman countryside, creating an oasis of calm before the act's tragic events. Cavaradossi, facing death within the hour, asks his jailer permission to write to someone dear to him. But Kerman believed Puccini's effects could be accomplished just as easily by literal folksongs and tape recordings of Sunday mornings. Nothing much happens here in plot nor music, he thought, comparing it unfavorably with the last act of Verdi's *Otello* where Desdemona's "Willow Song," sung with the threat of death over her, contains genuine suspense.

But I cannot help recalling the director Peter Brook's lines about theater: "A man walks across this empty space whilst someone else is watching him, and this is all that is needed for an act of theater to be engaged." Don't Kerman's criticisms undervalue the contribution of interpreters?



One fortunate result of thinning out Sardou's play is three of the greatest roles in the repertoire. Aficionados endlessly debate their favorite singers. *Gramophone* magazine might speak of José Carreras' "poetic ardour" as Cavaradossi. Many remember Tito Gobbi: "You're reminded that Scarpia is an aristocrat," said *New York Times* critic Anthony Tommasini in an article titled "The Best Opera Recording Ever Is Maria Callas Singing Tosca." Maria Jeritza (apparently Puccini's favorite Tosca) appeared in San Francisco Opera productions in 1928 and 1937 and was renowned for stage business. When she finished "Vissi d'arte," reports Puccini biographer Mary Jane Phillips-Matz quoting critic Max de Schauensee, mascara coursed "down her cheeks in two black streams, as many in the audience wept with her."

While Carner in his *Cambridge Handbook* concedes that Puccini's music doesn't completely make up for the emotion missing in Sardou, the missing portion is supplied by performers. In the classic 1953 recording of *Tosca*, says Tommasini, "[Callas] gives us more than jealousy. Her opening cries of 'Mario' are also panicked, almost desperate." Here is the vulnerability we need from the character. Kerman might have been justified to complain about musical shortfalls such as ending the opera with a reprise of "E lucevan le stelle" which has unclear relevance to Tosca's death, but admitted, in 1986, to *Opera as Drama*'s "total absence of any discussion of performance values." Can opera really be judged without considering the whole effect?

Act I of Stewart Wallace and Michael Korie's 1995 opera *Harvey Milk* features music that is recognizable as the brutal Scarpia motif that opens *Tosca*. Why? Because it denotes violence? Or because City Supervisor Harvey Milk loved opera and *Tosca* is arguably the opera buff's opera *par excellence*.

Gordon Williams is an Australian librettist and writer on music based in Los Angeles.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire said that "it is dangerous to be right when the government is wrong." When designer Robert Innes Hopkins and I began a few years ago to discuss Puccini's masterpiece, we were struck again and again by the pervasive corruption endemic to *Tosca*'s Rome. It is the kind of odious corruption like mold-producing water damage that rots from within until structures collapse. How does a moral, ethical person navigate a world where institutions tasked with protecting the common good have been usurped to serve the nefarious desires of unchecked tyrants? Do you compromise in small ways daily for survival until your own personal integrity is shredded into nonexistence? When do you stand up and fight back?

The task of creating a new production of a beloved opera and extremely significant title for San Francisco Opera is one we have joyfully and seriously taken on. Puccini's masterpiece, ideal for novice and aficionado alike, grabs the audience by the throat with Scarpia's chords at the downbeat and does not shake free until eternity is brought down upon our main players. Act I, Puccini tells us, takes place at Sant'Andrea della Valle. With Robert, we found the breathtaking Duomo di San Giorgio in Ragusa, Sicily as our inspiration: the Duomo's primary colors are as visually vivid as Puccini's music. In Act II, Scarpia's office within the Palazzo Farnese is a kind of elegant rat's nest, full of bribes and tributes from a cowering populace he extorts as he "protects" them. And Act III-the roof atop Castel Sant'Angelo, where long-suffering Roman citizens meet their state-ordered end—is a place that God has turned his back on, lest one witnesses the crimes men visit upon each other. Having been inspired by the portraits of Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, one of only fifteen women admitted to the French Royal Academy in her lifetime, we worked to create the clothing of Tosca's Rome-a time when the city did not rival Paris for fashion, had been under siege for years, and was desperately missing the patronage of the Pope.

Each of these spaces are as charged as Puccini's music and as complex as the characters who inhabit this world. Floria Tosca, swept from her simple sheepherding childhood because of her extraordinary gift of singing, manages to keep her faith and peasant wisdom even as the corruption of Scarpia's Rome washes over her. Mario Cavaradossi, whose politics begin as a fashion statement for annoying conservative priests, when tested, inspires incredible bravery and resistance. His love and passion for Tosca, which are the true meanings of his existence, fall also victim to the tyranny of the police chief's treachery. And Baron Scarpia is a self-made man with no time or tolerance for artsy idealists who don't understand that someone must preserve law and order—and whose sadistic sexual proclivities and lust for power demolish the lives and dignity of everyone he touches.

With Napoleon and his unstoppable forces bearing down on a Rome without the protection of the Pope, our main three characters become ensnared in the horrible net of treachery, intrigues, lies, moral turpitude, and fraudulence that extinguishes them all. Grand opera means grand tragedies. But in a world where corrupt dealings decay civic institutions, torture is fair and legal, and the Church colludes with tyrants for self-preservation, a woman fights back against her fate and the damning crush of this society. *Tosca* is a piece for today like almost never before.



Top: The 1791 oil painting Hyacinthe Gabrielle Roland, Marchioness Wellesley by Élisabeth Louise Vigée Le Brun (1755–1842). Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, Mildred Anna Williams Collection, Bequest Fund of Henry S. Williams in memory of H.K.S. Williams, 1991.29.

Bottom: Tenor Brian Jagde, director Shawna Lucey, and soprano Carmen Giannattasio in rehearsal.

Passion Glamour

The star of *Tosca* is ready for her San Francisco Opera close-up hunder roars in the summer sky, while waves ripple over the Gulf of Naples. The scene unfolds before an open window, looking onto the Castel dell'Ovo—the fortress that has served over the centuries as a convent, prison, and royal residence. To the east, the blue silhouette of Mount Vesuvius rises against the clouds, through the driving rain.

The setting is worthy of an opera, and so an apt location in which I should meet Italian soprano Carmen Giannattasio. And no less appropriate that, with the appearance of the prima donna, as we sit down for a *caffe* in the sumptuous hall of the hotel, the backdrop slowly shifts: the early evening air becomes warm and crisp, the sky is becalmed.

We meet in early August, when Carmen is taking a brief pause before her San Francisco Opera debut in a major new role, Tosca. She is no stranger to high-profile engagements: at 24, she debuted at La Scala. After winning First and Audience Prizes at Plácido Domingo's Operalia, The World Opera Competition in 2002, she has been dazzling audiences with a repertoire ranging from rarely seen 18th-century operas to masterpieces by Verdi and Puccini. She was the first Italian soprano in more than 20 years to take on the role of Violetta at the Metropolitan Opera, and she is beloved at the Royal Opera House in London, especially after stepping in last minute in La Bohème in 2012 with a mesmerizing portrayal of Mimì. Acclaimed for her rich timbre, expressiveness, and charisma, Carmen's warm temperament and glamour have led her to become a special representative for the high-end fashion designer Antonio Riva, Bulgari jewelry, and perfume brand Carthusia. "You know, we are sitting just a few steps

from where Enrico Caruso passed," the soprano reminds me, hinting at the Hotel Vesuvio next door, where the legendary tenor spent his final hours in 1921. In her frequent travels around the world, Naples holds a special place: "*Io sono di casa qui*—it feels like home. It's not my city, but I was born just about an hour away in Avellino. Naples is where I grew up as an artist."

Her journey began not far from where we are sitting: in Solofra, her father's village, and Avellino, her mother's hometown. "I went to school in Solofra, and then to the Cimarosa Conservatory in Avellino, which is a forward-thinking place." It was her piano teacher who first recognized her vocal talents. This came as a surprise for the young musician: "At that time, I was playing Bach, Satie... opera was so far away from my sensibility! It took me about three years to really get into opera—and then I fell in love!"

Opposite: Carmen Giannattasio in a gown by designer Antonio Riva.

Above: The Italian soprano on location at Rome's Castel Sant'Angelo.

We speak in Italian, with occasional forays into our own respective dialects—hers Neapolitan, mine Abruzzese—whose common linguistic lineage speaks to the history of a fragmented nation. Both of our regions belonged to the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies until the unification of Italy in 1861 and, as Carmen remarks, "it's been maybe 60 years that we all speak the same language. That's thanks mainly to the advent of television at home in the 1950s. Here in Campania, dialects—and especially Neapolitan—are deeply rooted." Carmen is knowledgeable and passionate about local histories—their linguistic peculiarities, neighborhood theaters, little-known places to find the best Neapolitan food. Her inquisitiveness has guided her in her career, both on and off the stage. In fact, together with her studies at the Conservatory, Carmen pursued a degree in English and Russian at

the University of Salerno. "I wanted to be a journalist," she explains, "and the critical eye that you need in that profession has stayed with me."

It is with this same keen perspective that she is approaching her latest role. I am curious why she chose Tosca at this point in her career. "You know, I was asked to sing Tosca when I was 27, after I won Operalia in Paris," she says. "Obviously, receiving such an offer when you are a young artist is incredibly flattering. You feel perhaps not that you have made it, but that you are ready. You think to yourself: 'They want me, so I can do it.' But I've always been realistic about my career and always considered where I was on my path as a singer, both taking on new roles and understanding when to let some of them go. When I was asked to sing Tosca at such a young age, I realized that, before getting to Puccini, there was a lot of music I needed and wanted to sing: Cimarosa, Monteverdi, Mozart... a lot of bel canto. Right now, my voice has a thickness, color, and maturity to tackle a prima donna role like Tosca, to whom I feel very close."

A smile from Carmen hints at another affinity with Tosca. "Yes, I have to confess that her passionate artistic soul is very close to mine," she confesses. "Some singers are vocalists. Other are *interpreti*, or performers. I feel like a singer-performer. One can be the best technical singer in the world, but, without conveying any feelings, those vocal fireworks become merely an end in themselves. I get more pleasure out of a sound that may not be perfect but, in that moment, in a specific scene, has its own perfection."

Combined with her instinctive relationship to a character, Carmen's critical edge informs the way she crafts her operatic roles. She has always been meticulous about researching the literary sources of the operas she interprets, and she tells me she has just finished studying the source play, Sardou's *La Tosca*. In addition, after our conversation, she is planning to meet with her friend, conductor Gianluca Marcianò, to spend a few days in a full immersion with Tosca's orchestral score.

Her familiarity with the original text influences her interpretation of the character. "Reading Sardou's play, you find out that Tosca was an orphan from Verona and lived as a sheepherder," she says. "The Benedictine monks took her with them and gave her an education. She grew up in a monastery! This is the reason for the profound religiosity that we witness in the the opera. In fact, she was meant to become a nun. It was the Pope himself that, in hearing her voice, was so touched that a tear fell from his eve. That's when he told her that she couldn't stay in a monastery: she had to bring beauty to the world and share with everybody the same emotions that her voice provoked in him.

"In the process of building a dramatically solid character, it's crucial for

me to know all of this. Learning more about her education and values, you understand how truly, deeply horrified she is by Scarpia's proposal. Mario's life is too important for her, so she accepts his depraved deal. And yet, she can't tolerate the mental torture to which Scarpia is subjecting her... and that leads her to the extreme act of murder."

Her desire to go for psychological depth makes Carmen a passionate interpreter, while her academic background in literature and languages allows her to feel comfortable in many artistic disciplines. This attention to cultural politics extends to her engagements with the fashion industry. "I feel very flattered that many prestigious brands have invested in me, especially because I didn't train to become a model and I don't have the body of a traditional model," she says. "I believe that these brands trust me because they know, and I know too, that women need images in which they can see themselves."

The first in her family to pursue a career as an artist, Carmen considers herself a self-made woman, and she believes that this aspect is something important to see reflected in haute couture. "I chose a path that's rewarding but also tough and full of sacrifices, and I paid my dues for many years," she states. "Many women work hard for years and finally they can afford certain items-purses, dresses, jewelry-that they couldn't have afforded when they were younger. Some brands prefer selecting an ambassador that embodies precisely these qualities: a woman that has worked hard to succeed, regardless of age, size, and appearances. Through my work with haute couture, my message to all women is that if you have skills and are willing to work, you can reach unlimited goals, even if you don't see someone like you represented yet. External beauty is ephemeral-but your personality, charisma, the fruits of your work, those last much longer. You have to educate your mind, your soul, otherwise you won't have anything to offer when external beauty fades."



Along the way, Carmen has found solidarity not only with her Italian compatriots but supportive professionals and institutions abroad: "I often say I am a 'British product.' They took me when I was diamond in the rough. I owe so much to the U.K. and what I love the most about the British is their foresight. They recognize your talent—and then they also tell you that there's more work to do, more practice needed."

Her American experience has been equally positive. "In some places, performers are like toreadors in the arena: until the end, you don't know what the reaction will be," she explains. "That's also part of the game, you have to be able to accept all kinds of feedback. But in my performances in the U.S., it's almost like being on a team, you and the audience together—and that's an

incredibly warm feeling. Also, I am touched by the support of the Italian and Italian-American communities. I remember one episode from my debut at the Met in *II Trovatore* when, for the very first performance, no member of my family, friends, or even my agent could make it. And yet, at the end of my aria in Act I, I heard somebody screaming: 'Forza Carmen!' This gave me the energy to go on for the rest of the operal."

Carmen's role as a cultural ambassador has also been recognized on an institutional level. In 2017, she was granted knighthood—the Order of the Star of Italy—a distinction honoring those who have promoted cultural excellence in the world. "That was a huge source of pride," she explains, "and I almost couldn't believe it."

The hours go by, and it's almost time for us to move upstairs to the terrazza for dinner. Her friend Gianluca Marcianò and his wife, violinist Tatevik Shahinyan, have just arrived at the hotel. He jokes about Carmen's attention to detail and her work ethic: "She's the only singer I know who can rehearse in full voice for seven, eight hours in a day!" They reminisce about previous times they have performed together, and on the particular teamwork required to bring opera to life. "Music is synonymous with *condivisione*, sharing," Carmen exclaims enthusiastically. "You do it together—with your colleagues and with your public. Singers cannot go on stage without all the professionals involved in a production—prop masters, electricians, hairstylists. I want everybody to be the best they can, and that pushes me to be the best—which doesn't mean better than others. That has never been my goal.

"I only want to be better than Carmen from last time. Better than myself every time I go on stage."

Marina Romani is a music and film researcher and performer, trained in Western classical voice and Afro-Caribbean music. She holds a doctoral degree from UC Berkeley.

ARTIST PROFILES



LEO HUSSAIN

(London, England) **Conductor** Making his San Francisco Opera debut with *Tosca*, British conductor Leo Hussain has established himself as a leading

interpreter among his generation of Mozart, the Second Viennese School, and 20thcentury masterpieces. He is former music director of the Opéra de Rouen and Salzburg Landestheater, and in 2016, Hussain made his critically-acclaimed debut at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden with Enescu's Oedipe. Highlights this season include *Die Tote Stadt* at Toulouse's Théâtre du Capitole, a return to Oper Frankfurt leading Carmen, and a new production of La Cenerentola at Oslo's Den Norske Opera. These follow recent performances with the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg, Wiener Symphoniker and ORF Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony at Mozartfest Würzburg, WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, DSO Berlin, Deutsche Radio Philharmonie Saarbrücken Kaiserslautern, Prague Philharmonia, and Royal Danish Orchestra. Outside Europe, he has conducted the NHK Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra at the Tokyo Spring Festival and made recent debuts at the West Australian and Tasmanian symphony orchestras.



CARMEN GIANNATTASIO

(Avellino, Italy) Floria Tosca Making both her San Francisco Opera and role debuts as Tosca, soprano Carmen Giannattasio

first received international notice after a first-place win at the 2002 Operalia competition in Paris, followed in 2007 by a tour-de-force performance as Violetta in Scottish Opera's production of *La Traviata*. As equally comfortable in bel canto as she is in Verdi and Puccini, she has distinguished herself in the title role of *Norma* at Munich's Bavarian State Opera, Margherita in *Mefistofele* at Bavarian State Opera, Violetta at the Metropolitan Opera, Mimì in *La Bohème* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at Teatro alla Scala and Vienna State Opera, Leonora in *II* Trovatore at Vienna State Opera, and Nedda in Pagliacci at Dresden's Semperoper and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, among other roles. Upcoming engagements include Tosca at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Elisabetta in Maria Stuarda at Paris' Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, the title role of Giovanna d'Arco at Madrid's Teatro Real, the title role of Ermione at Naples' Teatro di San Carlo, and Norma and Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera at Bavarian State Opera. Her discography includes complete recordings of Il Pirata and Ermione on the Opera Rara label.



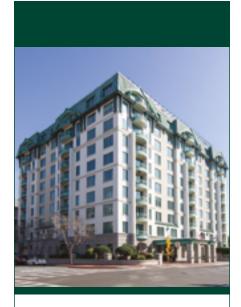
BRIAN JACDE (New York, New York) Mario Cavaradossi Tenor Brian Jagde made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as Joe in *La Fanciulla del West* and most recently returned to the

Company as Calaf in *Turandot*, Radames in Aida, Cavaradossi, Don José in Carmen, and Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly. Last season, Jagde sang Cavaradossi at the Zurich Opera House, San Carlo Opera Festival, and Deutsche Oper Berlin; Verdi's Requiem at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw; Der Fremde in Korngold's Das Wunder der Heliane at Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Radames at Seattle Opera. He also performed as Don José in Carmen at Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre and the Arena di Verona Opera Festival. Upcoming engagements include Don José at Deutsche Oper and Royal Opera, Covent Garden, as well as role debuts as Enzo Grimaldo in La Gioconda at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu and Don Alvaro in La Forza del Destino at Paris' Opéra Bastille. Jagde is a graduate of the 2009 Merola Opera Program and a former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow.



SCOTT HENDRICKS (San Antonio, Texas) Baron Scarpia Baritone Scott Hendricks made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2004 as Marcello in *La Bohème*. An esteemed interpreter

of Puccini and Verdi, Hendricks has also performed Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* at the Metropolitan Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and Washington National Opera; Scarpia at the Opéra National de Paris, Munich's Bavarian State Opera, the Bregenz



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HADLEIGH ADAMS

(Palmerston North, New Zealand) **Cesare Angelotti** Bass-baritone Hadleigh Adams made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2013 as Luther and Schlemil in *Les* On the operatic stage

Contes d'Hoffmann. On the operatic stage, he has made recent debuts with Minnesota Opera, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, American Bach Soloists, American Repertory Theatre, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Pittsburgh Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Omaha, West Edge Opera (as Vicomte de Valmont in Luca Francesconi's Quartett), and Opera Parallèle (as a Steward in Jonathan Dove's Flight). In concert, he has performed with the London Philharmonia Orchestra under Esa-Pekka Salonen, Los Angeles Philharmonic under Gustavo Dudamel, San Francisco Symphony under Michael Tilson Thomas, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra under Robert Spano, and Colorado Symphony with Cristian Macelaru. Later this season, he makes his debut with the Nederlandse National ReisOpera as Carl Magnus in Sondheim's A Little Night Music, and he returns to Cincinnati Opera as Mercutio in Roméo et Juliette. Adams is a graduate of the 2012 Merola Opera Program and a former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow.



DALE TRAVIS (Trenton, New Jersey) A Sacristan Bass-baritone Dale Travis made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1988 as the Keeper of the Madhouse in The Rake's Progress. He has since appeared in over 40 Company productions, most recently in the dual roles of Benoit and Alcindoro in 2017's La Bohème and as Dr. Kolenatý in The Makropulos Case in 2016. With a repertoire encompassing 50 roles in a wide variety of styles from Mozart to Strauss, Travis has been a frequent guest artist at the most prestigious opera companies in the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Santa Fe Opera Festival, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Spoleto Festival USA, Saito Kinen Music Festival, Teatro Regio in Torino, Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Berlin Komische Oper, and the New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv. Last season, he performed the role of Don Bartolo in Il Barbiere di Siviglia at Kentucky Opera and the Glimmerglass Festival, and as a Sacristan at Michigan Opera Theatre. Next summer, he appears at the Santa Fe Opera as Benoit and Alcindoro and as Don Alfonso in Così fan tutte.



JOEL SORENSEN (Canton, Ohio) Spoletta Tenor Joel Sorensen made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2004 as the Mosquito in Janáček's *The Cunning*

Little Vixen, returning as Pong in Turandot, Balthasar Zorn in Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Le Médecin in Debussy's La Chute de la Maison Usher, Elder Hayes in Carlisle Floyd's Susannah, and Dr. Caius in Falstaff. He created the roles of Mr. Pease in the 2013 world premiere of Tobias Picker's Dolores Claiborne and Sciortino in 2015's world premiere of Marco Tutino's Two Women. During his long association with New York City Opera, he performed in more than two dozen productions, including Prince Igor, Falstaff, La Rondine, Il Trittico, Mefistofele, and Mathis der Maler. Other career highlights include Goro (Madama Butterfly), Monostatos (Die Zauberflöte), and Andrès, Cochenille, Pitichinaccio, and Frantz in Les Contes d'Hoffmann at the Metropolitan Opera; Don Curzio (Le Nozze di Figaro) and Wilhelm (The Ghosts of Versailles) at Los Angeles Opera; Mime (Das Rheingold) with the Longborough Festival; and Andres (Wozzeck) with the Landestheater in Salzburg.



ANDREW MANEA (Troy, Michigan)

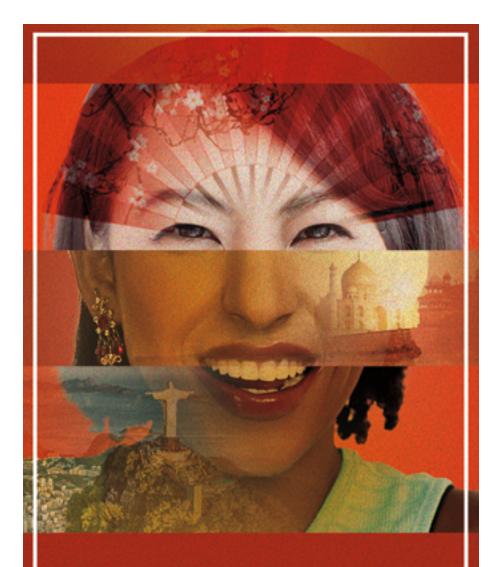
Sciarrone Romanian-American baritone and secondyear Adler Fellow Andrew Manea made his Company debut as Marullo in

Rigoletto in 2017 and performed Marquis d'Obigny in La Traviata last season and the Duke of Nottingham in last month's Roberto Devereux. He was a participant of the 2016 Merola Opera Program, appearing as Iron Hans/Wolf in their production of Conrad Susa's Transformations. He has performed Escamillo in Carmen in Wuhan, China, as well as the Forester in The Cunning Little Vixen, the title role of Don Giovanni, and he competed in the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions (semifinalist), Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition (finalist), Opera Columbus Cooper-Bing International Voice Competition, Francisco Viñas International Singing Competition and Giulio Gari Foundation (a career grant recipient).



CHRISTIAN PURSELL (Santa Cruz, California) A Jailer A first-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and national semifinalist at the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National

Council Auditions, bass-baritone Christian Pursell made his San Francisco Opera debut last month as Sir Walter Raleigh in Roberto Devereux. He also earned recent acclaim for his performances in the world premiere of Gregory Spears' Fellow Travelers at Cincinnati Opera. His 2017 season saw debuts at both Houston Grand Opera (Tom in Laura Kaminsky>s Some Light Emerges) and Vienna State Opera (Second Englishman in Prokofiev's The Gambler), and as Dandini in La Cenerentola at the Merola Opera Program. Other past engagements include Pandolfe in Cendrillon, Harašta in The Cunning Little Vixen, Marcello in La Bohème, Belcore in L'Elisir *d'Amore*, and Pilate in a staged production of Bach's St. Matthew Passion. Purcell is a 2017 recipient of the Sara Tucker Study Grant and Second Award winner of the 2017 Jensen Foundation Competition. He also appears this season as Count Lamoral in Arabella and as part of the Angel Quartet in Jake Heggie's It's a Wonderful Life.



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ZACHARY ZELE (San Francisco, California) A Shepherd Boy Zachary Zele joined the San Francisco Boys Chorus in 2015, and with the chorus, he has performed

at the "Deck the Hall" holiday concert at Davies Symphony Hall, sung the National Anthem for three Oakland A's baseball games at Oakland Coliseum, gone on tour to the Pacific International Choral Festival in Eugene, Oregon, and was a soloist in the San Francisco Boys Chorus' "From Handel to Hollywood" winter concert. In addition to singing, he performed violin with the Sunset Youth Orchestra at Carnegie Hall in 2016. Zachary also plays saxophone and piano and enjoys baseball.



MILES KALUDZINSKI (San Francisco, California) A Shepherd Boy Miles Kaludzinski has been a member of the Ragazzi Boys Chorus in Redwood City, California since

age seven. With Ragazzi, he has toured Arizona and Canada, competed at the International Choral Kathaumixw Festival, and performed in numerous programs around the Bay Area, including at Davies Symphony Hall and Bing Concert Hall. As a soloist, Miles has performed with Peninsula Cantare and New Choir. In May 2018, Miles sang the role of a Shepherd Boy in the Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera's production of *Tosca*. A classical and jazz music enthusiast, Miles plays the piano and tenor saxophone and enjoys soccer, reading, hiking, and basketball.

SHAWNA LUCEY



(Houston, Texas) Director Shawna Lucey made her San Francisco Opera directorial debut in 2017 with La Traviata. She has worked at the Santa

Fe Opera, the Bread and Puppet Theater, Houston Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Bolshoi Theater, and Schauspiel Hannover, assisting directors David McVicar, Francesca Zambello, Stephen Lawless, Lee Blakeley, John Caird, and Peter Schumann, among others. For San Francisco Opera, Lucey served as assistant director for several productions including, most recently, *La Bohème, Aida, Andrea Chénier, Sweeney Todd*, and *Die Meistersinger* von Nürnberg. For five years, Lucey worked with theater institutions in Russia where her projects included directing and designing a puppet version of Primo Levi's *If This is a Man*, which debuted at the Moscow Art Theater and toured the country. Recent directorial engagements include *The Pirates of Penzance* for Skylight Music Theater, and *L'Italiana in Algeri* for the Santa Fe Opera. Next year, Lucey directs *The Pearl Fishers* at the Santa Fe Opera and *Falstaff* at the Dallas Opera.



ROBERT INNES HOPKINS (London, England)

(London, England) **Production Designer** Robert Innes Hopkins is an award-winning stage and costume designer who works in opera and theater. His previous

work at San Francisco Opera appeared in The Cunning Little Vixen (2004), L'Italiana in Algeri (2005), and Lohengrin (2012). Other opera credits include Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried, and Rigoletto at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Iain Bells' In Parenthesis, War and Peace, Rigoletto, and The Flying Dutchman at Welsh National Opera; Madama Butterfly at Danish National Opera; Tchaikovsky's Charodeika at Naples' Teatro di San Carlo; L'Italiana in Algeri, Peter Grimes, and Billy Budd at the Santa Fe Opera; and Tristan und Isolde at Venice's La Fenice. His theater credits include Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, Titus Andronicus, Coriolanus, and *Don Quixote* at the Royal Shakespeare Company, and Neville's Island, Speed the Plow, and Clybourne Park in the West End.



MICHAEL JAMES CLARK (Los Angeles, California) Lighting Designer Michael James Clark made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2014 with La Bohème. As

the lighting supervisor for Houston Grand Opera, his recent work includes Rachel Portman's The Little Prince, David Hanlon and Stephanie Fleischmann's After the Storm, The Magic Flute, Otello, Die Fledermaus, Aida, ll Trovatore, La Traviata, Mary Stuart, and The Rape of Lucretia. For seven seasons, Clark served as a member of the lighting department at the Santa Fe Opera. He holds a bachelor's degree in lighting design from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Upcoming credits include La Bohème at Houston Grand Opera and the Canadian Opera Company, as well as the world premiere of Tarik O'Regan and John Caird's The Phoenix at Houston Grand Opera.



IAN ROBERTSON

(Dundee, Scotland) **Chorus Director** Recipient of the San Francisco Opera Medal in 2012, Ian Robertson has been chorus director and conductor with

San Francisco Opera since 1987, having prepared more than 300 productions for the Company. He was awarded the Olivier Messiaen Foundation Prize in 2003 for his artistic contribution to the preparation of the Company's North American premiere of Saint François d'Assise. Robertson has also conducted ten mainstage productions with the Company. Other North American opera credits include productions with Sarasota Opera, Edmonton Opera, and Philadelphia's Curtis Opera Theatre. Before joining San Francisco Opera, Robertson was head of music and chorus director of Scottish Opera. He currently serves as artistic director of the San Francisco Boys Chorus.



DAVE MAIER (Great Neck, New York) Fight Director Resident fight director for San Francisco Opera, Dave Maier made his Company debut in 2013 with

Les Contes d'Hoffmann. His work has most recently appeared in the Company's Ring, Girls of the Golden West, Manon, La Traviata, Turandot, Elektra, Rigoletto, Don Giovanni, La Bohème, Aida, Madama Butterfly, Andrea Chénier, Dream of the Red Chamber, Carmen, Don Carlo, Jenůfa, and Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Maier has directed fight scenes for American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, San Jose Repertory, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, and Magic Theatre, among others. He is a five-time recipient of the San Francisco Bay Area Drama Critics Circle Award for Fight Direction, as well as an adjunct faculty member at the University of California Santa Cruz and St. Mary's College of California. He currently teaches combat-related courses in Berkeley.

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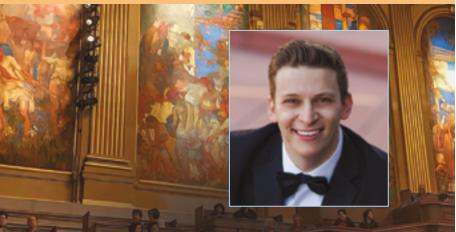
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C. Michael Belle* Torlef Borsting† Alan Cochran* Chris Corley Christopher Filipowicz Anders Fröhlich* Daniel Harper Christopher Jackson Ken Iohnson David Kekuewa Bojan Knežević* Frederick Matthews William O'Neill* Phillip Pickens* William Pickersgill Chester Pidduck* Valery Portnov* Colby Roberts* Sigmund Seigel Dan Stanley Iere Torkelsen* Andrew Truett* **Richard Walker**

† Chorus member on Leave of Absence * Chorus member appearing in a Solo Role

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ORCHESTRA MANAGER Tracy Davis

Timothy Spears, Assistant

* Principal for one or more Fall season operas † Leave of absence ** Season substitute



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Laura Albers



Heidi Wilcox Associate Concertmaster Assistant Concertmaster





Dawn Harms First Violin



First Violin

Barbara Riccardi First Violin



Dian Zhang First Violin



Leonid Igudesman First Violin







Asuka Annie Yano First Violin



Jeremy Preston Principal Second Violin



Associate Principal Second Violin



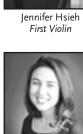
Beni Shinohara Assistant Principal Second Violin



Eva Karasik Second Violin



Leslie Ludena Second Violin



Maya Cohon Second Violin



Craig Reiss Second Violin



Heeguen Song Second Violin Regular Substitute







Sergey Rakitchenkov Associate Principal



Paul Nahhas Assistant Principal Viola

Thalia Moore

Associate Principal

Cello

60

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA



Patricia Heller Viola



Jonna Hervig Viola



Natalia Vershilova Viola



Joy Fellows Viola



Victoria Ehrlich Cello









. Principal Bass



Peter Myers Assistant Principal Cello



Nora Pirquet Cello



















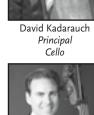




Cello

























RA











SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA CONTINUED



Jonathan Lancelle Associate Principal Bass



Steven D'Amico Assistant Principal Bass



Shinji Eshima Bass



Mark Drury Bass

Deborah Shidler

Oboe

Regular Substitute

Kevin Rivard

Co-Principal

Horn



Julie McKenzie Principal Flute

Jose Gonzalez

Granero

Principal Clarinet



Stephanie McNab Flute & Piccolo



Barbara Chaffe Flute **Regular Substitute**



Oboe

Daniel MacNeill

Bassoon



Janet Popesco Archibald Oboe & English Horn



Bassoon & Contrabassoon



Michael Severance





Trumpet











Horn

Trumpet



Patricia Niemi Percussion



Assistant Principal



Clarinet



Horn

Mark Almond Co-Principal



Clarinet a Bass Clarinet



Brian McCarty Horn



Rufus Olivier

Principal

Bassoon

Lawrence Ragent Horn

David Ridge

Trombone &

Bass Trombone







Zachariah Spellman John Burgardt Tuba/Cimbasso Timpani



Richard Kvistad Principal Percussion & Associate Timpani



Regular Substitute



Olga Ortenberg Rakitchenkov Harp





Donald Kennelly Trombone



Tracy Davis















William Holmes













SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA CONTINUED



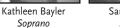


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Timothy Spears Assistant Orchestra Manager & Librarian













Dvora Djoraev Soprano



Mary Finch Soprano



Soprano

REGULAR CHORI



S

Elisabeth Rom Lucio Soprano



Nadima Avakian

Soprano

Angela Eden Moser Soprano



Soprano

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Virginia Pluth Soprano



Carole Schaffer Soprano



Jesslyn Thomas Soprano



Mitzie Kay Weiner Soprano



Buffy Baggott Mezzo-Soprano



Roberta Bowman Mezzo-Soprano



Janet Campbell , Mezzo-Soprano



Sally Mouzon . Mezzo-Soprano



Sally Munro . Mezzo-Soprano



Erin Neff Mezzo-Soprano



Mezzo-Soprano



Laurel Rice

Mezzo-Soprano



Shelley Seitz Mezzo-Soprano



Claudia Siefer Mezzo-Soprano



Donna Turchi Mezzo-Soprano



C. Michael Belle Tenor



Alan Cochran Tenor



Chris Corley

Tenor



Daniel Harper Tenor

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA REGULAR CHORUS CONTINUED



Tenor





Chester Pidduck Tenor



Colby Roberts Tenor



Sigmund Seigel Tenor



Tenor



Andrew Truett Tenor



Richard Walker Tenor



Torlef Borsting Baritone Leave of Absence



Anders Fröhlich Baritone



Ken Johnson . Baritone



David Kekuewa Baritone



Baritone



Jere Torkelsen Baritone



Christopher Filipowicz Bass



Bojan Knežević Bass



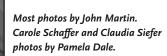
William O'Neill Bass



William Pickersgill Bass



Valery Portnov Bass



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA **CORPS DANCERS**



Brook Broughton

Leave of Absence

Blanche Hampton



Bryan Ketron



Michael Levine Leave of Absence



Rachel Speidel Little





Chiharu Shibata

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The **OPERA BOX OFFICE** is located in the Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, and is open Monday 10 AM-5 PM, Tuesday through Saturday 10 AM-6 PM, and through the first intermission on performance days. Tickets may also be charged by phone at (415) 864-3330 or ordered online at sfopera.com. We accept American Express, VISA, MasterCard, and Discover.

If you are unable to use your tickets to a particular performance, you may exchange them for tickets to another performance, subject to availability, or donate them back to the Opera. Ticket exchanges for future performances can be accommodated up to one hour before curtain or during the first intermission. No refunds are associated with ticket exchanges, and a fee (plus any price differential) may apply.

ACCESSIBILITY San Francisco Opera is committed to providing easy access for all of our patrons. Please contact the Opera Box Office prior to your visit so that we can ensure your comfort.

For Patrons in Wheelchairs, San Francisco Opera offers wheelchair-accessible seats at a range of prices. All entrances at the War Memorial Opera House are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchairaccessible stalls in restrooms can be found on all floors (except the Main Lobby and 5th floor Balcony levels). Accessible drinking fountains are located on all floors except the Balcony level.

LISTENING DEVICES Assistive listening devices are available at the North and South Lobby coat checks. ID deposit required.

LIVE TITLES: TEXT-TO-VOICE SUPERTITLES Headsets that provide a spoken version of the supertitles are available at the North Lobby coat check.

DINING & REFRESHMENTS Global Gourmet operates pre-show and intermission food and beverage concession services in lobby areas. Beginning two hours prior to all performances,

San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center War Memorial Opera House

Owned and operated by the City and County of San Francisco through the Board of Trustees of the War Memorial of San Francisco The Honorable London N. Breed, *Mayor*

TRUSTEES

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Elizabeth Murray, Managing Director Jennifer E. Norris, Assistant Managing Director/ Executive Secretary San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, and the San Francisco Symphony are experimenting with allowing audiences to enjoy beverages in the auditorium.

You may bring drinks purchased in the Opera House into the auditorium, as long as they are in the approved compostable cup with a lid, which is available at all bars.

Performance Etiquette

- Please turn off and refrain from using all electronic devices before the performance, including digital watches and cell phones.
- No cameras or recording equipment are permitted in the Opera House.
- As a courtesy to those who may have fragrance allergies, please avoid wearing perfume or cologne.
- Children of any age attending a performance must have a ticket; no babes in arms.
- Management reserves the right to remove any patron creating a disturbance.

the Café at the Opera in the lower lounge of the Opera House offers a changing seasonal buffet, as well as elevated \dot{a} *la carte* dishes for preperformance dining and intermission. The North Box Restaurant on the North Mezzanine (Box) level features locally sourced California cuisine with global influences.

Opera patrons can also enjoy snacks, sandwiches, and drinks in the newly renovated Dress Circle Lounge and enjoy small bites and a variety of premium wines and spirits at Café Express.

The **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA SHOP**, located in the South Mezzanine lobby, front lobby, and North Dress Circle of the Opera House, sells opera CDs, DVDs, SF Opera merchandise, and gift items. The Shop is open 90 minutes before performances, at intermissions, and afterward. All proceeds benefit San Francisco Opera.

COAT CHECK For the safety and comfort of our audience, all large parcels, backpacks, luggage, etc. must be checked at the Opera House coat check, located at the North and South ends of the Main Lobby.

COURTESY TELEPHONE, for local calls only, is located in the main lobby across from the South passenger elevator

DRINKING FOUNTAINS are available on all levels except the Lower level, where there is a courtesy water station on the north side. Water bottles are permitted in the auditorium.

OPERA GLASSES may be rented for \$5 at the North Lobby coat check. ID deposit is requested.

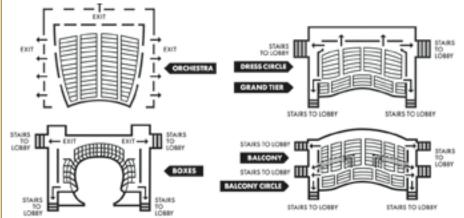
LARGE PRINT CAST SHEETS AND SYNOPSES are available at the coat check stations in the main lobby.

FIRST AID STATION is located on the South Lower level. In case of emergency, please ask the nearest usher to assist you.

LOST AND FOUND items may be claimed at the North coat check during the performance. All unclaimed items are delivered to the War Memorial Performing Arts Center at 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 110, (415) 621-6600 (8 AM–5 PM, Monday–Friday).

TAXI SERVICE Patrons desiring a taxi after a performance should come to the Grove Street Taxi Ramp located on the south side of the Opera House. Accommodations are provided on a first come, first served basis, and cannot be guaranteed as service is based on availability of licensed taxis. Staff will be on hand to assist.

San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center War Memorial Opera House Exit Diagram



PATRONS, ATTENTION PLEASE! FIRE NOTICE: Please note the nearest exit. In an emergency, follow any lighted exit sign to the street. **WALK**, do not run, to the nearest exit. Disabled patrons, proceed to nearest elevator lobby and await assistance.



BY GENERAL DIRECTOR MATTHEW SHILVOCK



BUILDING A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE On Tuesday, October 2, 1923, the curtain rose on the very first performance of San Francisco

Opera: *Tosca*, conducted by Gaetano Merola, staged by Armando Agnini, and starring Bianca Saroya. Nine years later, on Saturday, October 15, 1932, the curtain opened on another *Tosca*. It starred Claudia Muzio, directed again by Agnini, in a performance that inaugurated the brand-new War Memorial Opera House. That production endured until November 2014, creating a near 100year tradition of the original San Francisco Opera *Tosca*. Great art endures!

This century-long connection to a singular production is an extreme example of the power of a great interpretation. But there are many other examples. Our most recent *Figaro* production began its life in 1982 and returned for another six iterations through 2015. Our old production of *Barber of Seville* began life in 1963 and played six more times through 1996. These productions were also important rental opportunities, generating income and helping to fly the San Francisco Opera flag around the world.

I call these beloved interpretations "legacy productions"—productions that define our core repertory over decades. They are trusted friends that work beautifully for our stage and audience.

powerfully with Bay Area audiences.

s. They are trusted friends that work beautifully for our stage and audience. They are designed to be played in repertory (in combination with other productions), they are built with exquisite craftsmanship to withstand the rigors of time, and they tell these iconic stories in ways that resonate

We are at a critical juncture at San Francisco Opera. Almost all our legacy productions have come to the end of their playable life. Many originated in the 1980s and have served the company faithfully, energizing existing and new audiences alike. But now, many have been disposed of; the few that remain are becoming increasingly worn. The Hockney *Turandot* is an example of one that endures, but it does so because of a major rebuild in 2017 which has extended its life.

The importance of legacy productions cannot be overstated. They help define the core aesthetic of a company. They allow audiences to cherish and revisit favorite moments, while experiencing thrilling new interpretations from different artists. Those interpretations become interwoven into the tradition of a legacy production, as lasting sets and costumes become repositories of artistic history. They bind together generations in a common experience of one great work.

I am passionate about building a new generation of legacy productions for San Francisco Opera, and we begin that journey this month with a brand-new *Tosca*. I realize that the stakes are high. It is hard to imagine an opera with a greater set of production expectations than *Tosca*. It is a work that must be treated with reverence and respect if we are to create a new production for the ages. In the conception of director Shawna Lucey

and designers Robert Innes Hopkins and Michael James Clark is that reverence and respect. They have embraced this new *Tosca* with profound thoughtfulness. They have carried forth the tradition of *Tosca*, but they have found resonant new perspectives that allow audiences to connect to the work with a 21st-century mindset. And they have provided designs that have been exquisitely executed by our scenic, costume, and properties shops, using techniques that define excellence in our art form.

Only time will tell if our new *Tosca* becomes a legacy production. But in the collaborative spirit, in the iterative design work, in the loving craftsmanship are the hallmarks of a production that can thrill audiences in 2050 as much as it hopefully will now. It is my great hope that this is just the first such legacy production, and that over the coming years we will, together, rebuild the production legacy of this extraordinary company.



FIRST EVENT in the WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE







MATTHEW_SHILVOCK

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Music joins us together



Whether it's a solo performance or voices joined in song, music is a powerful form of expression. It's an experience we can all share.

We're proud to sponsor the San Francisco Opera.



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